



Water Supply Outlook

Our mountain reservoir water storage conditions remain good. However, we are becoming increasingly cautious about our water supply outlook due to the low snowpack and unusually dry weather since mid-January. We continue to closely monitor snowpack, hydrology, and water levels in our mountain storage reservoirs. Last week our mountain watersheds received no precipitation. Chester Morse Lake is at 1553.15 feet, down approximately 1.5 feet from last week. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is at 1759.03 feet, down approximately 0.8 feet from last week. Stream flows below SPU facilities on the Cedar and South Fork Tolt Rivers are currently slightly above guaranteed normal minimum flow levels.

Snow accumulations in the Cascade Mountains continue to be well below normal for this time of the year, the lowest we've seen in many years. Snowpack is about 13 percent of normal in the Cedar watershed and 25 percent of normal in the South Fork Tolt watershed. We have a bit more than a month of winter left for snow to accumulate.

Water consumption for the 7-day period ending February 21 averaged approximately 124 mgd. That is greater than the 107 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and equal to the average of 124 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.

Coho spawning is complete in mainstem S. F. Tolt and Cedar rivers. Adult summer-run steelhead are spawning in the Tolt system. Young Chinook and sockeye (fry) are emerging

from their redds in the Cedar and migrating to Lake Washington. Chinook fry are also emerging from their redds in the Tolt system. Chinook fry typically continue to emerge through early April, sockeye emerge through mid-May. In the Cedar, supplemental guaranteed instream flows have been provided to protect chinook redds and create beneficial conditions for emigrating sockeye fry. Adult coho migration in the Cedar is complete and the Landsburg fish ladder has been placed in passive mode to allow unrestricted passage of upstream migrating trout and steelhead. A total of 51 adult Chinook and 99 adult coho passed upstream during the fall/winter spawning season.



Water Quality Technical Forum Report

Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data from January 2005

There were no positive coliform samples in purveyor areas during January 2005. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.3 to 1.0 mg/L, with an overall average of 0.7 mg/L. The target chlorine residual at the Tolt Treatment facility is 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual is 1.3 mg/L. Although several purveyors have been experiencing low chlorine levels, the bacteriological quality of the water remains excellent.

Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is now meeting every other week. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9

representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the most recent Cedar distribution sample was 1.6, with a slightly chlorinous tastes. The Tolt supply was 2.0 with chlorinous and plastic tastes. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at moya.joubert@seattle.gov. SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, 206 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, 206 684-0216.



Asset Management

SPU Planning for the Future

Dam Safety Programmatic Plan

The Asset Management Committee (AMC) heard a briefing concerning the Dam Safety Program. The presentation included recommendations to improve the program and how it fits into the asset management framework. The program is the result of a work process redesign effort that included a series of facilitated meetings. The mission is to ensure the safety of our 17 dams and the Cedar Moraine. Two of these are detention pond dams, while the rest of the dams are for water supply. Most of these dams, including the detention ponds, are rated as high hazard dams, due to potential hazards such as flooding, seismic events, malevolent acts, improper operation and deterioration and general aging, that can put the dams and associated facilities at risk of failure.

The AMC approved staff suggestions for the program including:

- Use SPU's Risk Management framework to determine if we should do more to reduce risk than minimum required by regulations
- Perform a study of other dam owners to gather unique asset information to improve planning and focus on monitoring and inspections
- Clarify who is doing what in regards to asset management for facilities related to dams

The following program changes due to asset management were also approved by the AMC:

- ◆ Develop Service Agreements with Business Area Managers (BAMS)
- ◆ Update ongoing dam safety O&M charge codes document
- ◆ Ensure that Operation Asset Management Agreements include dam safety related tasks to the level necessary
- ◆ Add resource requirements to annual Dam Safety Program Work Plan

Visit the asset management web site for more details about SPU's asset management activities.



Conservation Technical Forum

On the web at <http://www.savingwater.org>
**WATER CONSERVATION RETREAT
HIGHLIGHTS**

I. SPU Update—Rich Gustav, Al Dietemann Annual Report

- ✓ Mailee Jose will return to do the annual report this year.
- ✓ A detailed customer participation report will be made available to each utility.

Logo

- ✓ We should visit the idea of modifying the SWP logo.
- ✓ In order to keep our own unique identity we should think about giving a geographic identity to our logo.

Budget

- ✓ This year's budget is lower than last years.
- ✓ O & M operating budget is 10% less than 2004. CIP is same as 2004 which was reduced 20% following the departure of CWA.
- ✓ The budget emphasis continues to follow the framework established in the 10 year conservation plan.

Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA)

- ✓ The CPA is the planning tool that will assist in identification of preferred options for

long-term conservation planning.

- ✓ The CPA is not a conservation plan itself, but rather, it is a tool to assist in conservation program planning.

Nationally

- ✓ House Bill 5098 has been introduced that would establish water efficiency standards for some commercial appliances.

II. Conservation Forum Direction for 2005, Debbie Rannfeldt, Arece Hampton

Meeting Frequency

- ✓ The group decided to change from monthly meetings to quarterly in an effort to increase attendance and participation .

III. Residential Indoor--David Broustis, Billie Fisher, Arece Hampton

Toilet Rebate Program

- ✓ As of December there have been changes made to Multifamily Rebate Program.
- ✓ The rebate was increased from \$60 to \$80 per toilet.
- ✓ Please send all perspective customers to www.savingwater.org for detail information on these and all the other programs that we offer.

WashWise

- ✓ New rebate levels for the coming year, \$25, \$50, and \$100 for different levels of efficient machines.

Showerhead Replacement Pilot

- ✓ In the 3rd quarter this year SWP will launch a pilot showerhead replacement Program in Highline Water District. The pilot will inform us about customer participation, water savings and service delivery in order to determine potential for regional implementation.

IV. Youth Education--Mike Mercer

Program Evaluation

- ✓ Regional water providers have given or sponsored presentations to school groups for over 20 years. No study has ever been undertaken to determine their effectiveness over the long term.
- ✓ Working with a consultant, an evaluation will

be conducted in 2005 to determine how much high school students have learned about water conservation.

Revised Waterbusters Game

- ✓ The game will be modified in 2005 to add some new challenges, scoring information, and an embedded survey to help gather useful data on user.

Watershed Gardens

- ✓ Water efficient gardens have been installed at area schools over the past several years by water providers
- ✓ Development of a garden is planned in Shoreline. Funding would be used to match with that from King County.

V. Landscape--Nota Lucas, Liz Fikejs, Jenna Smith

The Plant List

- ✓ Nota distributed the new Plant List brochure. Purveyors should contact Arece for copies
- ✓ If purveyors have gardening-related events occurring in their areas that could serve as venues to distribute the Natural Lawn & Garden guides or to offer classes, please call Liz to discuss.

Plant Right for Your Site Bookmark

- ✓ A new bookmark will be printed just before the Flower & Garden Show to be distributed at the Show, local bookstores and libraries.
- ✓ Please contact Arece Hampton to receive a supply of the bookmarks for your area.

Class Planning

- ✓ Liz is in the final stages of planning gardening classes for 2005. Topics include, Right plant right place promoting the new plant list; your first garden for beginners; lawn replacements, and low water use gardens.
- ✓ Speakers for the class are Marianne Binetti, and Stacie Crooks.
- ✓ Classes will be announce via Purveyor newsletters/bill inserts, Newspaper advertising, Tilth and more.

Water Efficient Irrigation Program

- ✓ The Water Efficient Irrigation Program, which serves commercial and multifamily customers, will begin a new approach to water conservation services in 2005
- ✓ In an effort to increase water savings, the program will use a contractor driven market transformation approach, helping irrigation contractors to assess their customers' landscape without SWP paying for costly commercial audit service and identify specific irrigation upgrades for rebates.

VI. Commercial--Phil Paschke

2005 Scope of Resource Venture

- ✓ Some of the major targeted groups for water conservation across the Saving Water Partnership service territory will be efficient sprayhead program participants, dental

offices with liquid cooled vacuum pumps, hospitality, and coin-op laundries.

Commercial Laundry Incentive Program

- ✓ A rebate of \$500 is being offered to replace those water and energy-guzzling machine funded jointly with PSE.
- ✓ If you know of any commercial laundry owner in your territory that could benefit from this offer, call Arece.

VII. Marketing--Cornell Amaya

2005 Toilet Round-Up

- ✓ David and Cornell are in the planning phase of a possible toilet round up for late 2005.
- ✓ Much like the round up of 3 years ago a central spot will be chosen where customers can drop off the old water guzzling toilets free of charge.



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